

For-Hire Driver Representation and Collective Bargaining – Statements of Interest

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This document provides for-hire drivers with basic information on statements of interest as they relate to the City of Seattle's collective bargaining ordinance. **Information is subject to change.**

1. What is a statement of interest?

The statement of interest is the method used by qualifying drivers to communicate their support for being represented by an organization that will negotiate on their behalf. If the organization submits and the City approves statements of interest from a majority of qualified drivers, the organization will enter into a contract establishing terms and conditions of work for a driver coordinator like Uber, Lyft, Yellow Cab or Eastside for Hire.

2. What is a qualified driver representative (QDR)?

A QDR is an organization that has been designated by the City of Seattle as eligible to seek to represent for-hire drivers. The only organization that has been designated by the City as a QDR at this point is Teamsters Local 117.

3. How will a QDR contact me?

A driver coordinator (e.g., Uber, Lyft, Yellow Cab or Eastside for Hire) is required to give a QDR that requests it a list of all qualifying drivers for that driver coordinator. The list will contain drivers' names and contact information (email address, phone number and mailing address). Based on information on the list, a QDR may contact qualified drivers and attempt to solicit their support for representation.

4. Which drivers get to participate in the QDR selection process?

Qualifying drivers, as defined by a City administrative rule (which takes into account length of service and number of rides), can decide whether to sign a statement of interest. A driver can be a qualifying driver for more than one driver coordinator.

5. Aren't drivers supposed to vote?

Instead of voting on a specific election date, qualified drivers will express their opinion by signing (or not signing) statements of interest. Drivers who want to be represented by a QDR can sign statements of interest. Drivers who do not want to be represented by a QDR should not sign a statement of interest.

6. What does a statement of interest look like?

A statement of interest can be a paper card or petition or can be presented in an electronic form on a computer, tablet or smartphone screen. Regardless of the format (paper or electronic), the statement must contain only that language prescribed by City administrative rule.

7. What information do I need to provide on a statement of interest?

Per a City administrative rule and regardless of format (paper or electronic), a driver must provide his/her name, email address, phone number and valid for-hire driver license/permit number (issued by King County and the City). In addition, the driver must sign and date the statement.

Recognizing possible delays in processing renewal applications, the rule states that a for-hire driver license/permit will be considered valid if it is no more than 60 calendar days expired on the date a driver signs a statement of interest.

8. How will the information provided on a statement of interest be used?

The for-hire driver contact information is used to confirm the identify of a driver and the license/permit number may be used as a unique identifier to verify a signed and dated statement of interest.

9. What if I forget to sign and/or date the statement?

A statement without a signature and/or date will not be valid and will not count toward the QDR's petition to be certified as an exclusive driver representative (EDR). If the statement is in electronic form, the signature can be an e-signature, but a date will still be required.

10. What happens to a statement of interest after I sign it?

A QDR has 120 days to seek statements of interest before it must submit all signed statements of interest to the City. City staff, another government agency or an independent third party will then verify the statements to determine if the QDR has achieved support from a majority of qualifying drivers for a specific driver coordinator.

11. Can I sign multiple statements of interest?

The City does not limit the number of statements of interest a driver can sign. A driver's expression of support for a particular QDR will only be counted once per driver coordinator, however.

12. Do I have to sign the statement right away?

The decision whether to sign belongs to a driver, and a driver should take the time that he/she needs before making that decision. To be counted, a statement of interest must be signed and submitted to the City before the City's deadline. In addition, the QDR may set an earlier internal deadline for collecting signed/dated statements of interest.

13. I changed my mind but I already signed a statement of interest. Is there anything I can do?

A driver can revoke a signed and dated statement of interest by completing a revocation form. The revocation form must be in the same format (paper or electronic) as the signed and dated statement of interest and must contain the language prescribed by a City administrative rule.

Revocations must be submitted to the City for verification just as signed and dated statements of interest are. They must be submitted within five calendar days of the QDR's submission of signed and dated statements of interest. The City will post details about submitting these revocations later.

14. Will statements of interest be in languages other than English?

While not required, the City strongly encourages the QDR to make translated statements of interest (and related materials) available to drivers. Possible languages include Somali, Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya, Hindi, Punjabi and Spanish.

15. Where can I get more information?

The City maintains a webpage at <http://bit.ly/DriverRepresentation> with more information on for-hire driver representation and collective bargaining, including but not limited to the administrative rules on a qualifying driver and certification of an EDR. To contact FAS, please send email to DriverRepresentation@seattle.gov.